

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON BIOFUELS ANNOUNCEMENT

February 3, 2010, Washington, DC-Rep. Herseth Sandlin issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announcement of the final rule for implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS):

"The release of the final rule on the new Renewable Fuels Standard today is a mixed bag. While it appropriately includes ethanol and biodiesel as effective and necessary fuels to meet the RFS targets, unfortunately it also includes irresponsible international indirect land use calculations.

"I am pleased that the final rule recognizes corn ethanol's clear superiority over gasoline in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and am pleased that all corn ethanol will qualify toward conventional biofuels mandates in the RFS. As we all know, when compared directly, ethanol has a clear advantage over traditional gasoline and is a critical component of our domestic biofuels industry, which supplies the U.S. with clean-burning, renewable fuel that is cutting foreign oil imports, fostering economic development in rural states, and helping consumers at the pump.

"However, the EPA's inclusion of international indirect land use calculations as part of the final rule, and then unfairly applying these flawed calculations only to corn-based ethanol is unacceptable and will require corrective legislative action. I have consistently worked with my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee to implore EPA not to use such speculative science when drafting the final rule. I have repeatedly said that the EPA should base the final rule on fact, not fiction, and they should not include land use changes in foreign countries when considering the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of renewable biofuels produced in the U.S. This proposal for calculating indirect emissions in foreign countries threatens the progress our nation has made over many years in advancing biofuels and fails to take into full consideration the innovations of U.S. agricultural producers and biofuels producers, who are pushing yields per acre up and enhancing the ethanol production processes.

"I am a cosponsor of a bipartisan bill that would stop EPA from including international indirect land use changes in determining American renewable fuels policy. H.R. 4572 also would broaden the definition of renewable biomass to strengthen the American biofuels industry and amend the Clean Air Act to make clear it does not allow for regulation of greenhouse gases as it relates to global climate change. This legislation contains important provisions of other bills I have already supported to strengthen the U.S. biofuels industry and stop EPA action that could harm the growth of this industry."

Throughout the rule-making process, Rep. Herseth Sandlin has consistently advocated for measures that support the development of domestic biofuels. A summary of her involvement is below.

- Rep. Herseth Sandlin is an original cosponsor of H.R. 2409, the Renewable Fuel Standard Improvement Act. Introduced by Chairman Peterson on May 14, 2009. Among other provisions the bill revises the definition of "lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions" to base the measurement of such emissions on recent observable data and consideration of regional differences of

renewable fuel production, rather than on indirect land use changes.

- As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Herseith Sandlin has participated in several hearings throughout last year during which she raised concerns with the ILUC as part of the proposed RFS 2 rule:

- May 6-Conservation, Credit, Energy and Research (CCER) Subcommittee hearing to review the impacts of the indirect land use and renewable biomass provisions contained in the renewable fuels standard (RFS) as part of the Energy Independence and Security (PL110-140).

- May 21-Full committee hearing on Low Carbon Fuel Standard and other biofuels issues
 - October 29-CCER Subcommittee hearing to review next generation biofuels.

- In November, Rep. Herseith Sandlin signed onto a bipartisan Dear Colleague letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in asking for bifurcation of ILUC from RFS 2 rule.

- Rep. Herseith Sandlin is a cosponsor of H.R. 4396, the Save our Energy Jobs Act. Introduced by Rep. Pomeroy, this bill prohibits the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions without the explicit direction or authority from Congress to do so.

- Rep. Herseith Sandlin is a cosponsor of H.R. 4572, introduced by Rep. Skelton, which would amend the Clean Air Act to make clear it does not allow for regulation of greenhouse gases as it relates to global climate change, would amend the 2007 Energy Bill to stop EPA from including indirect land use changes in determining American renewable fuels policy, and would broaden the definition of renewable biomass to strengthen the American biofuels industry.

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